

outside of these new arbitrary guidelines. The result was the Federal Government missed out on an opportunity to fund promising research, solely due to this arbitrary financial restriction.

The Austin Chamber of Commerce wrote a letter to my office with their many concerns regarding this provision. They stated that the problem is compounded by the fact that the majority venture capitalist-funded companies can house multiple unfunded ideas that are ultimately all excluded from the program. This occurs, even though research shows great promise, only because a business's overall financial structure offends this financial restriction. Their letter states that "Small businesses should not be forced to choose between the SBIR program and venture capital funding. To accelerate American technological innovation, Federal efforts must promote the importance of both public and private sector sources of capital and partnerships."

Yesterday, in front of the House Small Business Committee, another Texan told his story of how these restrictions have hurt innovation. Mr. Glenn Norem cofounded Totus Lighting Solutions, a company that manufactures and markets products that integrate surveillance with sensor monitoring on intelligent lighting platforms. Because of these arbitrary financial restrictions in the SBIR program, Mr. Norem had to choose between venture capital funding and Federal grants. When asked what impact that decision has had on his company and other companies similarly situated, he stated, that it delayed commercialization. Allowing companies to partner with all available options enables innovation, which grows companies and creates jobs.

This amendment is supported by the University of Texas, Austin Chamber of Commerce, Rice University, the Association of American Universities and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

I will be proud to offer this amendment that will improve the underlying legislation and help ensure that absolute best research gets funded by American tax dollars, so that innovation can lead to commercialization as quickly as possible. Our country's job creators need us to do our jobs so they can do theirs.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE—S. 627

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the CBO cost estimate regarding S. 627 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 627—FASTER FOIA ACT OF 2011

S. 627 would establish a commission to identify methods for reducing delays in processing requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The commission also

would investigate a recent increase in the number of exemptions from FOIA that federal agencies have issued to prevent the release of information. The 12-member commission would have one year to report its findings and recommendations to the Congress. Members would be appointed within 60 days of enactment of the legislation and would serve without pay but would be reimbursed for travel expenses. The commission would terminate 30 days after submitting its final report. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) would provide support to the commission, and the General Services Administration would administer any travel expenses.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 627 would cost about \$1 million, mostly in fiscal year 2012. That estimate includes the cost of preparing the report and paying the salaries and expenses of 10 employees provided by NARA. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 627 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

APRIL 8, 2011.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 627, the Faster FOIA Act of 2011.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Matthew Pickford, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I wanted to take a few minutes to share with my colleagues a success story involving the building of a Federal laboratory project with funds from three separate Federal agencies.

Several years ago, as part of the efforts to remediate some of the excess facilities at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in my home State of Washington, the Department of Energy decided to tear down virtually all of the laboratory facilities in the so-called 300 Area to remediate and make the area available for future industrial uses.

We all shared the goal of cleaning up the 300 Area—it is an important part of the ongoing cleanup work at Hanford. But because the 300 Area was home to approximately 1,000 scientists, engineers and support staff for the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, PNNL, we know that we would have to find a new place for them to conduct their work.

As I am sure you know, building a replacement laboratory to accommodate 1,000 people is no easy task under any

set of circumstances. And the broad spectrum of work being done by these scientists—national security, homeland security, science research—both increased the challenge and brought a number of Federal agencies together. This unique situation brought together three agencies—the Department of Energy, the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security—to create a unique solution, building the Physical Sciences Facility.

This arrangement—three separate agencies with funding in two separate appropriations bills—isn't common in the Federal Government and isn't easy to accomplish. But with a lot of hard work, the \$225 million Physical Sciences Facility was constructed on time and within budget over 5 years' time. It has allowed the unique capabilities at PNNL to continue to be able to support critical missions for several government agencies.

I appreciate the leadership of PNNL Director Len Peters and Mike Lawrence, followed by Director Mike Kluse, who were determined to make the Physical Sciences Facility a reality. I would also like to recognize Carrie Desmond and Doug Clapp, both of whom used to work on my staff, for helping to make this project happen in the face of odds that were unbelievable at times, including budget requests that were not always sufficient to keep the project on schedule.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the dedication of the new laboratory on April 19, but I will be there in spirit. I congratulate all of the people at PNNL, the Department of Energy, the National Nuclear Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security who have worked to make the Physical Sciences Facility at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory an important asset for the Federal Government.

REMEMBERING KATYN

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the lives lost in last year's plane crash near Smolensk that killed Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria, and 94 others who represented the political, cultural, and religious leadership of Poland. Words alone offer little solace before such awesome tragedy, which is one of the reasons people must gather together before monuments and flowers to add a tangible dimension to our shapeless grief. While eloquent remarks can move the heart, we all know a smile, a gaze, or an embrace can often do more to bring comfort to the sorrowful.

Katyn has become a tragedy in three acts—the crime, the coverup, and now the crash. Surely it is fitting for us to meet, comfort each other, and remember those who died. But what lies beyond our tears? Can good come from this evil?

For the loved ones of those 96 souls who perished nearly a year ago, they